

**NEBRASKA FOOD CODE,  
Revised April, 2003**

**6-101.11 Surface Characteristics.**

(A) Except as specified in ¶ (B) of this section, materials for indoor floor, wall, and ceiling surfaces under conditions of normal use shall be:

(1) Smooth, durable, and easily cleanable for areas where food establishment operations are conducted;

(2) Closely woven and easily cleanable carpet for carpeted areas; and

(3) Nonabsorbent for areas subject to moisture such as food preparation areas, walk-in refrigerators, warewashing areas, toilet rooms, mobile food establishment servicing areas, and areas subject to flushing or spray cleaning methods.

**6-201.16 Wall and Ceiling Coverings and Coatings.**

(A) Wall and ceiling covering materials shall be attached so that they are easily cleanable.

(B) Except in areas used only for dry storage, concrete, porous blocks, or bricks used for indoor wall construction shall be finished and sealed to provide a smooth, nonabsorbent, easily cleanable surface.

**6-201.18 Walls and Ceilings, Studs, Joists, and Rafters.**

Studs, joists, and rafters may not be exposed in areas subject to moisture. This requirement does not apply to temporary food establishments.

**6-201.17 Walls and Ceilings, Attachments.**

(A) Except as specified in ¶ (B) of this section, attachments to walls and ceilings such as light fixtures, mechanical room ventilation system components, vent covers, wall mounted fans, decorative items, and other attachments shall be easily cleanable.

(B) In a consumer area, wall and ceiling surfaces and decorative items and attachments that are provided for ambiance need not meet this requirement if they are kept clean.

# Walls

In food/beverage handling and preparation areas, utensil washing areas, walk-in refrigeration units, and restrooms, refuse or garbage storage areas, and janitorial facilities, sheetrock or similar type walls are to be covered with rigid, high density materials, that are non-absorbent, corrosion resistant, smooth, light in color, and capable of withstanding repeated washing.

Acceptable wall covering materials include fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) panels, **ceramic tile**, **quarry tile**, and **stainless steel**. Alternate wall surface materials are subject to evaluation and may require submission of samples.

**Marlite**, **particle board**, **fiber board**, **chipboard**, **grooved paneling**, **textured or rough plaster drywall**, **wood**, **brick**, **concrete block**, **rough concrete**, **wall paper**, or **vinyl wall covering**, are not acceptable for wall construction or covering in the above areas.

**Oil-based epoxy** paints are appropriate in food preparation areas. **High-gloss enamel** paints work well in most other areas. When painting, concrete block walls need to have the porous face of this material filled and painted with at least a semi-gloss or higher finish and drywall must have **primer** and at least two coats of enamel paint with a **semi-gloss** or higher finish. We recommend stainless steel corner guards in high-traffic areas.

If tile is used, **grouting** must be non-absorbent and impregnated with epoxy, silicone, polyurethane or an equivalent compound. All mortar joints shall be only slightly tooled and suitably finished to render them easily cleanable.

Walls in **dry storage areas** shall be painted with oil-based enamel or epoxy paint if no open food is present. Areas constructed of smooth brick, concrete, block, or similar masonry may be painted as stated above.

Studs, joists and rafters shall not be exposed in walk-in refrigeration units, food preparation areas, equipment washing and utensil washing areas, toilet rooms and vestibules. Where permitted to be exposed, studs, joists and rafters must be finished to provide an easily cleanable surface.

Walls behind areas where there is likely to be extensive amounts of moisture, splash or splatter of food debris, or where damage from frequent contact with kitchen utensils or equipment is possible (such as clean utensil storage areas), will need to have wall covering materials installed that are more durable than simple drywall finishes (i.e., stainless steel or FRP panels).